

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1696

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT WB GW
SUBJ: INNER GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: USBER 1677

1. STATE SECRETARY SPANGENBERG TOLD FRENCH, BRITISH AND US ON JUNE 24 THAT BEGINNING OF TALKS WITH GDR WOULD NOW BE POSTPONED FOR SOME TIME. WISCHNEWSKI WOULD BE MAKING TRIP TO POLAD SOON, AND THEREAFTER WAS PLANNING VACATIONS. THERE WAS SMALL WINDOW OF FOUR DAYS IN HIS SCHEDULE WHEN HE JUST MIGHT LATER GIVE PRELIMINARY SKETCH TO GDR REP KOHL, BUT THIS WOULD NOT SIGNAL START OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS. KOHL HAD ALREADY SAID THE GDR DID NOT WANT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN JULY OR AUGUST, BECAUSE OF VACATION PLANS.

2. WISCHNEWSKI TALKED TO KOHL BY WAY OF INTRODUCTORY KICK-OFF, HE MIGHT SAY THAT THE SENAT AUTHORITIES ARE NOW READY TO DISCUSS BERLIN ISSUES. THIS WOULD PERMIT SENAT AND GDR TO SEPARATE FOUR BERLIN PROBLEMS OUT OF PACKAGE AND TO AVOID LOSING MORE TIME ON THEM.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO BRITISH QUESTION, SPANGENBERG SAID THAT FRG WAS NOW FAIRLY RELAXED ON THE GDR REFUSALS OF TRAVEL PERMITS TO WEST BERLINERS AND WEST GERMANS. THE FRG HAD EXAMINED MATTER, AND HAD DISCOVERED, AS ASSERTED BY GDR, THAT IN FACT MANY OF THE PEOPLE REFUSED WERE EX-ESCAPEES, PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN BOUGHT OUT OR EMIGRATED, OR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD RELATIVES WHOSE EMIGRATION THEY

WERE SPONSORING. ALTHOUGH REFUSAL OF THE LATTER CATEGORY WAS REGRETTABLE, MANY APPLICATIONS OF THE FIRST TWO CATEGORIES SHOWED DUBIOUS JUDGEMENT. THE NUMBER OF TURNDOWNS HAD SHOWN A GROSS INCREASE, BUT WAS STILL A MINISCULE PERCENTAGE OF ALL APPLICATIONS. THE FRG ATTRIBUTED THE SLIGHT UPSURGE TO GDR PERFECTION OF COMPUTER COVERAGE OF "UNDESIRABLES." THE WEST WOULD BE SOMEWHAT CHOOSIER ABOUT WHICH EXCLUSIONS WERE PROTESTED.

4. COMMENT: THE SENAT IS IN FACT CONTINUING TO PRESS COMPLAINTS ABOUT REFUSALS OF VISIT APPLICATIONS BY EMIGRES WHO STILL HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE GDR WHOM THEY ARE TRYING TO SPONSOR FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION. THE SENAT REP (HINKEFUSS) MADE SUCH A PRESENTATION AGAIN ON JUNE 23 WITH THE GDR "VISITS COMMISSIONER", MUELLER OF THE FONMINISTRY.DAVIS

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